

STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 96-900

April 23 1999

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION/NYNEX,  
Schools and Libraries Project

ORDER

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and DIAMOND, Commissioners

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**I. SUMMARY**

In this Order, we approve spending of an additional \$300,000 over 3 years to support training of libraries and teachers as part the Governor's Initiative of an AmeriCorps Grant Proposal.

**II. BACKGROUND**

The School & Library Network Advisory Board recommends that the Commission approve a funding request of \$540,000 over 3 years for an AmeriCorps Initiative. As proposed, the grantee would be Jobs for Maine's Graduates (JMG). The program would place high school or recent high school graduates as volunteer trainers in libraries to train teachers, librarians, parents and librarian patrons on how to use the Internet. The volunteers would work from hubs set up at selected vocational technical centers around the State. The majority of the Board members view this as an opportunity to leverage federal funds to supplement the training initiatives already undertaken by the Maine School and Library Network.

**III. DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

After reviewing draft material concerning the proposal, we find it to be well conceived and agree it is an opportunity to leverage matching Federal funds. However, some of its goals go beyond the focus of the Maine School and Library Network. We have consistently stated that training end users, such as library patrons, goes beyond the primary objective of MSLN: to provide every school and library with a usable connection to the Internet. When we approved circuit rider training in August 1998, we specifically stated that "Training teachers to integrate Internet technology into curriculum or training library patrons to use the Internet is beyond the scope of this project". Order Docket No. 94-254 (Aug. 4, 1998) at 6.

MSLN funding is appropriate to the extent the volunteer trainers will be able to assist teachers and librarians to more effectively use their connections. Therefore, we

are willing to support the grant application with \$300,000 in funding over the 3-year period, for training librarians and teachers. The grantees must find other financial support to fund any training of end users or eliminate this aspect from the proposal. We expect a significant focus of the program will be on librarians and teachers.

JMG should submit a copy of the grant proposal to the Chair of the Advisory Board prior to its submission, to ensure it complies with the requirements of this Order. If the grant is awarded, we also ask JMG to report semiannually to the Advisory Board on program implementation and outcomes to allow the Board to monitor results and ensure coordination with MSLN activities.

Dated at Augusta, Maine this 23rd day of April, 1999.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

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Raymond Robichaud  
Assistant Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR:	Welch Nugent
COMMISSIONER ABSENT:	Diamond

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1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R. 110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, sitting as the Law Court, is not available, as provided in 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(6).
3. Review of this discussion is available to an aggrieved party by bringing an action in federal district court, as provided in 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(6).

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